

**Amendment and Response**

Applicant: Daniel J. Fisher

Serial No.: 10/821,071

Filed: April 8, 2004

Docket No.: M120.253.101 / 59554US002

Title: ATTACHMENT SYSTEM FOR A SANDING TOOL

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**IN THE CLAIMS**

Please add newly presented claim 41.

Please amend claims 1, 3, 5, and 38 as follows:

1.(Currently Amended) A conversion pad for attaching an abrasive article to the back-up pad of a sanding tool, said conversion pad having an attachment system comprising a first major surface including an attachment region with attachment material for attachment with an associated mating surface, and a non-attachment region along at least a portion of an edge of said first major surface for forming an attachment with the associated mating surface that is weaker ~~then~~ than the attachment between the attachment region and the associated mating surface, whereby a user can grasp a portion of the abrasive article adjacent the non-attachment region and thereby separate the abrasive article from the first major surface.

2.(Previously Presented) A conversion pad as defined in claim 1, wherein said attachment system comprises a first major surface of said conversion pad, said conversion pad having a second major surface opposite said first major surface adapted to engage the sanding tool.

3.(Currently Amended) A conversion pad as defined in claim 1, wherein said associated mating surface comprises a first major surface of the abrasive article, said abrasive article having a second major surface opposite said first major surface including abrasive for abrading a work surface, and further wherein the attachment region is configured to form a releasable connection between said first major surface of said abrasive article and said conversion pad, said releasable connection characterized as being sufficiently secure to resist relative movement of said abrasive article relative to said conversion pad when rotating said abrasive article as part of a sanding operation.

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4.(Previously Presented) A conversion pad as defined in claim 3, wherein said attachment region comprises a centrally located region of said first major surface and said non-attachment region comprises a continuous edge region extending around the entire perimeter of said first major surface.

5.(Currently Amended) A conversion pad as defined in claim 4, wherein said attachment ~~surface~~region comprises a plurality of mechanical fastening elements.

6.(Previously Presented) A conversion pad as defined in claim 5, wherein said mechanical fastening elements comprise hook-type fastening elements.

7.(Previously Presented) A conversion pad as defined in claim 4, wherein said attachment region is a circular region covering a majority of said first major surface and said non-attachment region comprises an annular region extending around the entire perimeter of said first major surface.

8.(Previously Presented) A conversion pad as defined in claim 1, wherein said non-attachment region includes fastening elements that have been altered to inhibit attachment of said fastening elements with said associated mating surface.

9.(Previously Presented) A conversion pad as defined in claim 8, wherein said fastening elements have been bent to prevent attachment of the fastening elements with said associated mating surface.

10.(Withdrawn) A conversion pad as defined in claim 8, wherein said non-attachment region includes a coating material applied to said fastening elements to inhibit attachment of the fastening elements with an associated mating surface.

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11.(Withdrawn) A conversion pad as defined in claim 10, wherein said coating material is a sheet of material applied to the terminal ends of said fastening elements, thereby covering said fastening elements and preventing said fastening elements from attaching to an associated attachment surface.

12.(Withdrawn) A conversion pad as defined in claim 10, wherein said coating material is a hardenable liquid applied to fill the open space around said fastening elements, thereby preventing said fastening elements from attaching to an associated attachment surface.

13.(Withdrawn) A conversion pad as defined in claim 1, wherein said non-attachment region is free of attachment material.

14.(Previously Presented) A conversion pad as defined in claim 1, wherein said attachment region and said non-attachment region are co-planar.

15.(Previously Presented) A conversion pad as defined in claim 1, wherein the conversion pad and the abrasive article have substantially the same profile and have aligned outer edges.

16.(Withdrawn) A conversion pad as defined in claim 1, wherein said attachment material comprises adhesive.

17. – 27.(Cancelled)

28.(Original) A conversion pad for attaching an abrasive article to a back-up pad, said conversion pad comprising a pad having first and second opposed major surfaces, said

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first major surface being adapted for engagement with the back-up pad and said second major surface including an attachment surface including attachment material for attaching said conversion pad with the abrasive article and a non-attachment surface along at least a portion of an edge region of said second surface, thereby to allow a user to grasp the abrasive article and separate the abrasive article from the conversion pad.

29.(Original) A conversion pad as defined in claim 28, wherein said non-attachment region comprises a continuous edge region extending along the entire perimeter of said second surface.

30.(Original) A conversion pad as defined in claim 28, wherein said attachment surface comprises a plurality of mechanical fastening elements.

31.(Previously Presented) A conversion pad as defined in claim 30, wherein said mechanical fastening elements comprise hook-type fastening elements.

32.(Original) A conversion pad as defined in claim 31, wherein said conversion pad is circular and said non-attachment region comprises an annular region extending along the entire perimeter of said second surface.

33.(Original) A conversion pad as defined in claim 32, wherein said non-attachment region includes fastening elements that have been altered to inhibit attachment of the conversion pad with the abrasive pad.

34.(Original) A conversion pad as defined in claim 33, wherein the conversion pad and the abrasive article have substantially the same profile and have aligned outer edges.

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35. – 36.(Cancelled)

37.(Previously Presented) An abrading tool including a back-up pad, a conversion pad connected with the back-up pad, and an abrasive article connected with the conversion pad, wherein the back-up pad, the conversion pad and the abrasive article have substantially the same profile and have aligned outer edges, and further wherein the conversion pad comprises first and second opposed major surfaces, said second major surface including an attachment region including attachment material for attaching said conversion pad with the abrasive article and a non-attachment region along at least a portion of an edge region of said second surface, thereby to allow a user to grasp the abrasive article and thereby separate the abrasive article from the conversion pad.

38.(Currently Amended) An abrading tool as defined in claim 37, wherein the the back-up pad, conversion pad and abrasive article are circular.

39. – 40.(Cancelled)

41.(New) The abrading tool as defined in claim 37, wherein the conversion pad is removably connected to the back-up pad.